12/13/74

Dear Dear Dennis Mori,

I appreciate what you say. And I'd like to be able give you more than short answers to questionsthe sincerity of which I well understand.

However, in addition to trying to do some work each day and get out the orders for the new book, where just being able to pay back the loan used to pay the printer is a nip-and-tuck thing, I have three other letters like yours, the shortest four times as long.

So, full responses is a practical impossibility.

My own approach is different. I don't conjecture, fantasize or confabulate. My quest is for fact that I can present as fact and to which meaning is obvious, not imparted by special interpretations.

Flammonde stole what he could from others and added Garrison's improvisations and pretended individuality and independence. In fact his book is worthless except for those who favor deceiving the people. For every time he has a footnote crediting another's work (which also falselyimparts the aura of scholarship) he had many cases where he had just plain stolen. Including errors.

I've forgotten the Permindex story. I did know it. Assuming that it is factual that they engaged in these practises, what is the relevance? I know of neither a connection nor a reasonable basis for conjecturing one.

I remember Penn's theory. I did not and do not credit it. Conspiracies so vast in size never can preserve silence. It would have come out. And there are these kinds of goings on in the stock market with some regulatity. That is its nature.

It is a good sign that people want to band together and research. However, you have a very real problem: how can you discriminate between truth and attractive fictions? Most of those who are heard today are unscrupulous commercializers who have gleaned what they know will be sensational from the worst of others, mixed in a few not too dishonest variations on the fact developed by others, and they have superspectaculars that to those without a basis for discriminating is at once exciting and persuasive.

Frankly, I don't know what can be done about this. It takes a high degree of sophistication to have a basis for suspicion and much work to have a basis for factual criticism. Especially when all the garbage is so sweetly scented.

So, I encourage you in your banding together for research and in exercising the greatest skepticism in every word you read and hear. Try to take it all apart. Question everything and question hard. Otherwise you'll wind up more frustrated and seriously misinformed and neither aware of it nor willing to consider the possibility.

These may not be the kinds of words you expected, but I owe you the honest and forthright expression of what I believe to be beyond reasonable question.

Sincerely,